









Cabañas

(Left) Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division participate in a mine-clearing drill during the exercise.

(Right) Other soldiers from the division carry a "mine victim" on a makeshift litter during another training session.

(Far right) Chilean Army Pvt. Hector Briones Martines demonstrates the proper use of the PRC-624 radio to a group of Brazilian soldiers.

(Below) Chilean soldiers pose as civilian protestors and block a simulated United Nations aid convoy by setting fire to trees on the entrance road to Chile's Fuerte Lautaro.

(Below, right) Peruvian soldiers set up a vehicle checkpoint.

the exercise participants were tasked to protect that ZOS.

"Ten training lanes were set up to hone soldiers' skills in various tasks," Britto said. "The lanes covered everything from humanitarian aid, to identification and marking of mines, to civil-military operations."

While many 82nd Airborne Division soldiers participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, elements of the division's 1st Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment, deployed to Chile for the exercise.

"This was very realistic training," said 1st Bn.'s SSG Gary Benslay. "Our soldiers were challenged in many different scenarios that required them to react without using excessive force."

Benslay said the exercise helped him understand that peacekeeping operations not only help ease tensions among warring factions, but also allow U.S. soldiers to become accustomed to the U.N. mandates governing peacekeeping operations.

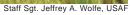
The exercise also helped build camaraderie among the soldiers of the participating nations.

"This was a unique experience for us," said Paraguayan Lt. Fernando Gayoso. "Ninety-nine percent of us had never been in this type of situation. We all worked together as a team. It was truly a great success." □



28 Soldiers







PH2 Roberto Taylor, USN

